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The Franklin Journal and American Mechanic's Magazine. Monthly. Vol. I. No. 1. Philadelphia. I. Dobson.

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opportunity to point out and deprecate an evil of so pernicious a tendency.

In these remarks we beg not to be understood as reflecting on the translator of this work. We are willing to believe that she has executed her laudable task with fidelity and ability, and only regret that her labors should be brought before the public under such a disadvantage, through the ill management of her publishers.

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'The want of such a work, published in this country, has been felt by those persons, who, wishing to become acquainted with the French Theatre, are obliged to purchase a number of comparatively useless volumes. In Racine's works, for instance, independent of the two first plays, which few would be tempted to read, the two last volumes are almost entirely filled with letters and other works, which fewer still would ever peruse. The smallest collection of Corneille's *Chefs-d'œuvre* has four volumes. Those of Voltaire have the same number. Molière's Plays are seldom found in less than eight volumes. Thus one must

procure at least twentyone volumes in order to obtain a perusal of the four writers of the first class. Besides, that many of the plays contained in those collections seldom engage the attention of the reader, there are a number in which it would be desirable, that many scenes were omitted. In a word, it is very seldom that those who read French, with a view to study the literature of that language, attempt to read more than ten or twelve plays. Those are now offered to the public with the addition of one or two plays of other eminent authors, and notes explanatory of idioms, local allusions, &c. It is intended, that the collection shall contain *Le Cid*, *Les Horaces*, and *Cinna*, of Corneille; *Andromaque*, *Iphigénie*, and *Athalie*, of Racine; *Zaire*, *Mé-
rope*, and *Mahomet* of Voltaire; *Le Misanthrope* and *Tartuffe*, of Molière; *Le Légataire Universel* of Regnard; *La Métromanie* of Piron; and possibly *L'Avare* of Molière. This last will be added if the size of the volume should permit it.'

The work is intended to contain six or seven hundred pages, octavo, and to be published by subscription. The price to subscribers is fixed at three dollars.
